



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/092,039	03/06/2002	Scott Edward Klopfenstein	PU010194	8316
24498	7590	01/04/2007	EXAMINER	
THOMSON LICENSING INC. PATENT OPERATIONS PO BOX 5312 PRINCETON, NJ 08543-5312			O STEEN, DAVID R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2623	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		01/04/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/092,039	KLOPFENSTEIN, SCOTT EDWARD	
Examiner	Art Unit		
David R. O'Steen	2623		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 September 2006.
2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 3-6-02 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed September 19, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. On page 5 of the Remarks section, the applicant traverses the examiner's rejections of independent Claims 1, 10 and 16. Specifically, the applicant argues that the references cited by the examiner (especially Duhault) does not teach or suggest the limitation of "deleting program guide information associated with said channel if said channel is not included within said scan list." Instead, on pages 5 and 6 or the Remarks section, the applicant argues that Duhault deals primarily with customizable lists of channels and not with storing programming guide information.

Unfortunately, the examiner disagrees. The examiner maintains that the "customizable lists" of channels does comprise a program guide and allows the user navigate the channels available for display. Secondly, Duhault clearly discloses the limitation of "deleting program guide information associated with said channel is said channel is not included with said scan list" in several places throughout the specification (citing in the rejection of the above cited claims in the Non-Final Rejection mailed July 26, 2006) but more specifically in the column 5, lines 28-34 where the Duhault discloses adding and deleting from either a automatically generated channel list or a user customized channel list.

The applicant also traverses the examiner's rejections of dependent Claims 8 and 9. On page 8 of the Remarks section, the applicant argues that the references relied on by the examiner do not teach or suggest "wherein said step of deleting the

Art Unit: 2623

comprises: determining whether a program object referenced by a selected channel object is also referenced by a channel object associated with a different channel; deleting said referenced program object from memory if said program object is not referenced by another channel object; and deleting said selected channel object from memory", as recited in Claim 8. Also the applicant maintains that none of the cited references teach or suggest "wherein said step of deleting comprises: determining whether a schedule object referenced by said selected channel object is also referenced by a channel object associated with a different channel; deleting said referenced schedule object from memory if said schedule object is not referenced by another channel object; and deleting said selected channel object from memory", as recited in Claim 9. After quoting, at length, the Lazarus reference, the applicant argues that, in Claim 8, there is no deleting of expired information but rather a deleting of a program object for a selected channel no longer in the scan list. The same is true also of the deleting performed in Claim 9. The applicant concludes his argument, on page 10 of the Remarks section, by stating that Duhault does not cure the deficiencies of Lazarus.

Again, the examiner must respectfully disagree. The applicant's claims 8 and 9 deal with the deleting of program objects (Claim 8) and schedule objects (Claim 9). The program records mentioned in Lazarus are both since they can include program information, including channel information, as well as schedule information (please see Lazarus, col. 5, lines 26-33). Lazarus also discloses checking to see if the referenced program (or schedule) object is referenced by another channel object before it is

deleted (please see Lazarus, col. 4, lines 10-59, and especially, lines 46-54). While Lazarus does not explicitly disclose deleting these objects because they are not in a scan list (which coincidentally, is not actually mentioned in the language of Claims 8 and 9), Duhault, which is also relied upon for the rejection of Claims 8 and 9 has already disclosed deleting from scan lists. In view of the cited passages in Lazarus, the rejections of Claims 8 and 9 are maintained by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 4-6, 10-11, and 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Duhault (US 5,900,868).

As regards Claims 1, 10, and 16, Duhault discloses a tuner (fig. 1.12) a demodulator (inherent in the tuner of fig. 1.12), a decoder (fig. 1.14), a memory (figs. 1.16 and 1.26), a processor (fig. 1.28), adapting the storage of program guide information for a plurality of programs in a receiver, wherein said adapting step includes: determining whether a channel is included within a scan list comprising a plurality of channels and deleting program guide information associated with the channel if channel is not included within the scan list (cols. 2, 4, and 5, lines 10-32, 16-32, 28-42).

As regards Claims 4 and 13, Duhault discloses the claimed satellite and terrestrial broadcasting center (col. 3, lines 9-15).

As regards Claims 5 and 14, Duhault discloses that said plurality of programs comprises at least one of a pre-recorded program, a live broadcast (col. 3, lines 18-20), and an advertisement.

As regards Claim 6 and 15, Duhault discloses that said program guide comprises Advanced Program Guide information (APG taken to mean a system that allows a user to navigate an interface that allows them to browse programs available on a broadcast system, abstract, fig. 2, and col. 2, lines 10-42).

As regards Claim 11, Duhault discloses that the channel selected for removal is provided via an input device (edit selections are made using an input device such as a mouse or keyboard, col. 5, lines 14-19 and an edit selection can include adding or deleting channels, col. 5, lines 27-45).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 2-3, 7-9, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Duhault (US 5,900,868) in view of Lazarus (US 5,652,613).

As regards Claims 2, 8, and 12, Duhault discloses the method of Claims 1 and 7 and the apparatus of Claim 10, but fails to disclose that said deleting comprises determining whether program guide information scheduled for said identified channel is scheduled for use with another channel; and deleting said program guide information if said program guide information is scheduled for user with no other channel. Lazarus discloses that said deleting comprises determining whether program guide information scheduled for said identified channel is scheduled for use with another channel; and deleting said program guide information if said program guide information is scheduled for use with no other channel (Lazarus checks to see if a program object is still scheduled to be run in the future on any channels in the EPG, if no channel in the EPG is running the program, the program object is deleted from the EPG data base, col. 4, lines 46-54).

At the time of invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include the determining step, as done in Lazarus, an analogous art, to the method of Duhault to insure that no program data that is still being used in an EPG display is unnecessarily deleted.

As regards Claim 3, Lazarus discloses storing additional information for at least one program scheduled on an available channel (such as a program summary, col. 5, lines 30-33).

At the time of invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include additional information for a scheduled program, as done in Lazarus, an

analogous art, to the method of Duhault to give the user extra information about programs scheduled.

As regards Claim 7, Lazarus discloses a channel object containing program guide information for a channel (such as the channel name, its relative value, and whether it is a preferred channel or a pay channel, among other attributes, fig. 2 and cols. 5 and 6, lines 57-67 and 1-5), a schedule object containing program guide information for a program schedule (such as an database that contains information relating the programs broadcast, col. 3, lines 26-34), and a program object containing program guide information for a program (col. 5, lines 26-33).

At the time of invention it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to add channel objects, schedule objects, and program objects, as done in Lazarus, an analogous art, to the method of Duhault to give the user more information and control over the programs presented by the electronic program guide.

As regards Claim 9, Lazarus further discloses determining whether a schedule object referenced by said selected channel object is also referenced by a channel object associated with a different channel; deleting said referenced schedule object from memory if said schedule object is not referenced by another channel object; and deleting said selected channel object from memory (a schedule object contains program information for at least one program and Lazarus discloses deleting program information if said program information is not set to be run on any channels in the foreseeable future, col. 4, lines 50-54).

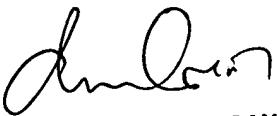
Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David R. O'Steen whose telephone number is 571-272-7931. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 to 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Grant can be reached on 571-272-7294. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



CHRISTOPHER GRANT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DRO